

SOUTH DAKOTA MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER REPORT


 SOUTH DAKOTA
 FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with
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 AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
 and
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A few February cold snaps brought temperatures down closer to average for the month, with precipitation totals remaining below average for the majority of the state. Continued lack of snow cover has left crops vulnerable to winter conditions, yet livestock have benefitted from the mild weather as conditions remain similar to the previous month. With minimal snow to deal with, major farm activities during February included routine chores, tending to livestock, repairing machinery, spreading fertilizer, fencing, and calving and lambing.

This report is based on information from county extension educators, Farm Service Agency county directors, and other reporters across the state.

WEATHER INFORMATION: February temperatures averaged only 2.7 degrees above normal for the state, with averages ranging from the upper-teens to the upper-twenties. The low temperature for the month was -30 degrees, reported in Porcupine, while the high was 74 degrees, reported in Winner. Precipitation was received during the month at all reporting stations, except Eureka. Yankton reported the most precipitation, at 0.87 inch. Precipitation totals since January 1st remain below normal for 38 of the 43 reporting stations. Statewide, road conditions are slightly worse than last year at this time, with county roads 99 percent open and township roads 97 percent open. As of March 5th, the average snow depth for the state was 0.5 inch.

SOIL CONDITION: Soil temperatures from reporting stations averaged 31.7 degrees for the past week. Statewide, soil temperatures averaged 2.1 degrees above normal. The soil temperature in Chamberlain was 5.6 degrees above normal, while the Redfield soil temperature was 2.2 degrees below normal.

FIELD CROPS REPORT: The continued lack of snow cover on winter crops and alfalfa remains a concern for producers throughout the state. The winter wheat crop condition is worse than both last month and last year at this time, with a rating of only 37 percent good to excellent. Both winter wheat and alfalfa snow cover ratings fell from January. Winter wheat snow cover is rated at 99 percent poor, while alfalfa snow cover is rated at 93 percent poor.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT: While stock water supplies fell slightly from last month, ratings are still above last year at this time. Stock water accessibility has decreased from last month, as many producers have commented that the lack of snowfall throughout the winter may lead to an issue with lack of

runoff for dams and dugouts. Feed supplies are rated at 94 percent adequate to surplus, with accessibility similar to last month, at 98 percent readily available. Mild weather has been mostly beneficial to livestock producers, yet issues with mud and dust may be on the horizon as the calving and lambing season moves into full swing. Cattle and sheep are in mostly good to excellent condition, with cattle death losses since Feb. 1st rated at 99 percent at or below normal. Calving progress is slightly ahead of last year, with 13 percent complete, while lambing is slightly behind last year, at 20 percent complete. Both calf and sheep and lamb deaths since Feb. 1st are rated at 99 percent at or below average.

SOIL TEMPERATURES WEEK ENDING MAR 5, 2006 (4-inch Depth)

LOCATION	TEMP	LOCATION	TEMP
Beresford	35	Gettysburg	31
Brookings	31	Nisland	33
Caputa	32	Pierre	32
Chamberlain	34	Redfield	28
Cottonwood	36	Watertown	28

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS AS OF MARCH 5, 2006

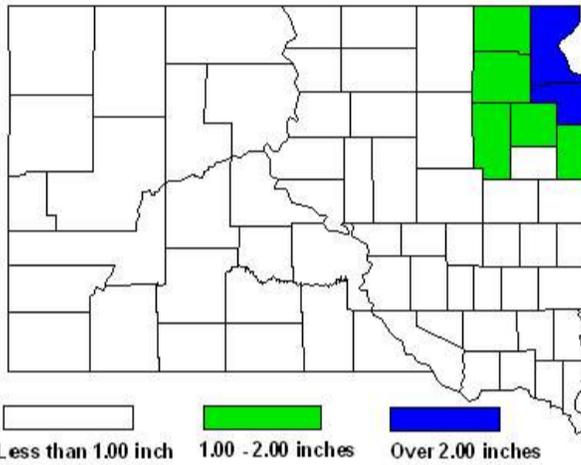
ITEM	V POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	5	16	42	34	3
Cattle	0	1	11	70	18
Sheep	0	0	10	68	22

FEED AND WATER SUPPLIES COMPARISON AS OF MARCH 5, 2006

RATING	FEED SUPPLIES			STOCK WATER SUPPLIES		
	This Year	Last Year	5-Yr. Ave.	This Year	Last Year	5-Yr. Ave.
	Percent					
Very Short	2	8	NA	16	19	NA
Short	4	18	NA	16	20	NA
Adeq.	86	64	NA	66	61	NA
Surplus	8	10	NA	2	0	NA

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of March and will be released March 27, 2006.

SNOW DEPTH
As of Sunday, March 5, 2006



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION
For Month Ending February 28, 2006

Dist.	Station	Temperature past month				Precipitation			
		Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Monthly Departure from Normal	Total Since January 1	Departure from Normal Since January 1
		----- Degrees -----				----- Inches -----			
NW	Bison	24	2	61	-18	0.14	-0.32	0.36	-0.46
	Buffalo	27	4	58	-14	0.15	-0.15	0.33	-0.26
	Dupree	24	3	61	-14	0.18	-0.23	0.54	-0.11
	McIntosh	23	4	52	-18	0.07	-0.29	0.34	-0.31
	Newell	26	4	60	-19	0.17	-0.21	0.44	-0.26
	Timber Lake	23	3	49	-17	0.28	-0.19	0.53	-0.26
NC	Aberdeen	21	5	44	-14	0.34	-0.13	0.44	-0.40
	Eureka	22	7	46	-15	0.00	-0.35	0.12	-0.50
	Faulkton	22	6	47	-14	0.21	-0.29	0.32	-0.46
	Mobridge	24	6	51	-12	0.13	-0.29	0.35	-0.41
	Roscoe	20	4	44	-16	0.26	-0.14	0.33	-0.43
NE	Britton	18	3	42	-15	0.44	0.00	0.52	-0.37
	Clear Lake	16	-2	40	-17	0.22	-0.41	0.60	-0.63
	Sisseton	18	0	40	-13	0.20	-0.37	0.33	-0.77
	Webster	16	-1	40	-17	0.03	-0.56	0.33	-0.84
	Watertown	17	0	41	-14	0.14	-0.44	0.67	-0.45
WC	Faith	26	4	53	-14	0.39	-0.09	0.78	0.03
	Milesville	26	4	58	-18	0.28	-0.19	0.73	-0.06
	Long Valley	26	-2	72	-23	0.08	-0.29	0.56	-0.06
	Philip	26	3	59	-18	0.35	-0.02	0.67	0.04
	Rapid City	27	1	62	-23	0.22	-0.30	0.34	-0.57
	Spearfish	29	3	67	-15	0.57	-0.16	0.81	-0.48
C	Chamberlain	25	2	57	-17	0.23	-0.14	0.68	0.09
	Highmore	25	5	58	-13	0.10	-0.39	0.33	-0.49
	Huron	24	6	51	-10	0.22	-0.46	0.29	-0.80
	Onida	25	5	58	-13	0.04	-0.54	0.70	-0.33
	Pierre	26	5	55	-11	0.17	-0.31	0.47	-0.44
EC	Brookings	19	4	47	-13	0.11	-0.31	0.43	-0.31
	Madison	21	5	48	-11	0.09	-0.66	0.15	-1.12
	Mitchell	22	3	53	-13	0.27	-0.33	0.57	-0.45
	Sioux Falls	24	5	57	-11	0.12	-0.52	0.87	-0.28
SW	Custer	23	-5	56	-29	0.65	0.09	0.88	-0.04
	Hot Springs	28	-2	69	-25	0.70	0.30	1.23	0.53
	Oelrichs	26	-3	64	-25	0.44	-0.04	0.78	-0.10
	Porcupine	25	0	68	-30	0.58	0.24	1.17	0.60
SC	Murdo	26	4	56	-14	0.31	-0.11	0.70	-0.05
	Winner	28	2	74	-17	0.36	-0.26	0.68	-0.45
SE	Armour	26	2	63	-13	0.04	-0.65	1.10	-0.11
	Centerville	23	4	59	-19	0.17	-0.63	0.59	-0.65
	Marion	22	4	54	-12	0.26	-0.42	0.57	-0.65
	Pickstown	26	2	57	-13	0.16	-0.36	0.49	-0.43
	Vermillion	27	3	60	-20	0.23	-0.29	0.43	-0.48
	Yankton	24	3	58	-16	0.87	0.39	1.40	0.54

SOURCE: National Weather Service, provided by AWIS, Inc.